

**S/N Unknown**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Jiri Snaidr	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	Unknown	Group Art Unit:	Unknown
Filed:	Herewith	Docket:	235.017US1
Title:	METHOD OF DETECTING MICROORGANISMS IN A SAMPLE		
(Continuation under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) of PCT/EP00/03989, filed May 4, 2000)			

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified continuation application as follows.

**In the Specification**

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following section:

**--RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) of International Application No. PCT/EP00/03989 filed May 4, 2000 and published as WO 00/68421 on November 16, 2000, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 from German Application No. 199 21 281.3 filed May 7, 1999, and German Application No. 199 36 875.9 filed August 5, 1999, all of which applications are incorporated herein by reference.--

**In the Claims**

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect amendment of claims 3, 5-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 25. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

1. A method of detecting microorganisms in a sample by means of a nucleic acid probe comprising the following steps:
  - a) fixing the microorganisms contained in the sample;
  - b) incubating the fixed microorganisms with the detectable nucleic acid probe molecules;